

M **MONTANA** **STATE UNIVERSITY**

EXTENSION

Fire Services Training School

Butch Weedon

Montana Fire Services Training School

Director

(406) 771-4328 work

(406) 788-0222 mobile

(406) 761-2972 home

bweedon@montana.edu

750 6th Street SW

Great Falls, Montana 59404

<http://www.montana.edu/www/fire/>

MISSION: BUILD THE CAPACITY OF COMMUNITY FIRE SERVICES TO HANDLE EMERGENCIES

GOAL: TO REACH 80% OF FIREFIGHTERS WITH QUARTERLY TRAINING

- ↓ We are the State level agency responsible for training local firefighters
- ↓ We take the training to communities statewide
- ↓ 96% of our customers rate our training as Exceptional or Very Good
- ↓ The skills we teach are not conducive to "distance learning" methodologies.



- ↓ We have had a positive influence on the operations of 76% of Montana Fire Services

THE PEOPLE WE SERVE:

- ↓ Protect the lives, property, infrastructure and environment of every community in Montana
- ↓ Are 96% volunteers, serving their community without compensation.
- ↓ Respond 24 hour a day, 365 days per year to serve their fellow citizens in a dangerous, dirty, chaotic environment.
- ↓ Are challenged by limited funds, increasing regulation, and an increasing demand for services.
- ↓ Are all local government affiliated, and provide the lowest cost / highest impact government service.

IMPACTS:

- ↓ Reduced Fire Insurance Premiums

Plentywood reduced their insurance premium cost for business \$200,000 per year as a result of fire department improvements the Chief credited to FSTS

In Clyde Park, homeowners insurance premium cost were reduced by more than 50% as a result of working with FSTS.

In Gallatin County, a Fire Chief credits FSTS with hundreds of thousands in premium savings annually.

↓ Innovations

We have been responsible for introducing most of the innovations in firefighting to our fire services. (ICS, PPV, TIC, CAFS, Professional Qualifications Certification, Air Stream Management, DFF)

↓ Reduced "Project Fire" Cost

Better trained local firefighters make more effective initial attacks, thus reducing number of fires that become significant, and reducing the cost to the Legislature for major wildfires.

Chief Kuntz, Red Lodge, credits FSTS training with enabling his department to save all the homes and prevent injuries in the Turkey Fire



←
FSTS tactics used on the Wedge Canyon Fire helped save the home at left

FSTS provides mobile props for firefighters to practice fighting real structure fires
→



↓ Safety

FSTS plays a key role in keeping Montana's rate of firefighter line of duty deaths very low.

We provided training for a record number of firefighters in fiscal 2010 (6603)

<u>Cost</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>
• *Governor's Budget Proposal	\$746,944	\$748,887
• *Includes a 5% reduction in the 2011 Base		



Montana's Firefighters Thank You for Your Support